

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 DHA-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 IGA-02

TRSE-00 MC-02 /085 W

-----049892 141123Z /20

R 121601Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7777

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1582

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, ML, US, MR

SUBJECT: PROBABLE MAURITANIAN REACTION TO RESUMPTION MAP IN MALI

REF: (A) STATE 158083, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 1403

1. MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT (GIRM) WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY APPROVE SMALL U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO MALI. POSITIVE GIRM RESPONSE WOULD BE FOUNDED ON: (A) CLOSE PHILOSOPHICAL AND WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MAURITANIA AND MALI WHICH HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN AND SYMBOLIZED BY SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL EXCHANGES CULMINATING MID-JUNE IN FOUR DAY VISIT OF MALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO MAURITANIA FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY ONE DAY VISIT OF MALIAN PRESIDENT TO NOUAKCHOTT. IN EXCHANGE OF TOASTS GIRM FOREIGN MINISTER DECLARED AND MALIAN REITERATED "TOTAL IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON ALL INTERNATIONAL, AFRICAN, AND REGIONAL QUESTIONS". THUS GIRM IN ALL LIKELIHOOD WOULD ACCEPT VIRTUALLY ANY REASONABLE ACTION MALIANS MIGHT TAKE TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THEIR POLITICAL/SECURITY POSITION. (B)

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CAUGHT IN MIDST OF GUERRILLA WAR, GIRM IS ACUTELY CONSCIOUS OF ITS DEPENDENCE ON FRIENDLY, DEVELOPED STATES FOR CRITICALLY NEEDED MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO ACCEPT AS MATTER OF COURSE MALIAN RECOURSE TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOR MILITARY GEAR. (C) SINCE LATE 1975 (AND OUTBREAK OF POLIVARIO/ALGERIAN WAR), GIRM HAS SHIFTED SIGNIFICANTLY TOWARD CONSERVATIVE (MOROCCO, SAUDI ARABIA) AND WESTERN (FRANCE U.7?).

STATES. MALIAN-U.S. ARMS TIE WOULD BE SEEN AS LOGICAL, NATURAL
MOVE IN NEW CONTEXT WHICH HAS BROUGHT REINTRODUCTION OF FRENCH
MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO MAITANIA AND RECONFIGURATION OF
MODERATES' RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACHOTHER (RECENT NON-AGGRESSION
AGREEMENT) AND WITH WEST.

2. BUT DECISION TO RESUME MAP SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WQTH MALI
WILL PROBABLY RAISE ONCE AGAIN EXPECTATIONS OF GIRM MILITARY
AND POLITICAL AUTHORITIES 2:9 .8)85-46 *94 7.S. AIRCRAFT AND
HARDWARE, CIVILIANS FOR MORE TANGIBLE AND PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS
OF U.S. POGITICAL SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH NEGATIVE U.S. RESPONSE TO
THEIR JANUARY 1976 ARMS AID REQUEST HAS NOW BEEN FITTED INTO A
MORE REALISTIC PHILOSOPHICAL/POLITICAL APPRECIATION OF OVERALL
US-MAURITANIAN RELATIONSHIP, AND WHILE PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP
LEVEL OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THAT U.S. COMMITMENT TO MAURITANIAN
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FAR OUT WEIGHS MINIMUM POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE OF HOPED-FOR ARMS GRANT, CIVILIAN AND MILITARY
MAURITANIANS, AFTER RESUMPTION U.S. -MALI MAP, WILL EXPECT U.S.
TO RESPOND PROMPTLY AND AFFIRMATIVELY TO THIER REQUESTS TO BUY
RPT TO BUY AIRCRAFT (CARGO AND RECONNAISSANCE), KEY HARDWARE
ITEMS AND GENERAL SUPPLIES (UNIFORMS, C-RATIONS) IN U.S. FOR
COLD (SAUDI) CASH. U.S. REFUSAL TO ISSUE MUNITIONS CONTROL
LICENSES FOR END ITEMS GIRM WANTS TO PURCHASE IN US WOULD, IN
FACE OF GRANT AND CONCESSIONARY SALES MAPS IN MALI, MOROCCO,
AND SENEGAL, PRODUCE SHARP NEGATIVE REACTION. ECCN THOUGH
PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH SAYS RPT SAYS HE RECOGNIZES AND ACCEPTS
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INTERNAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMPLICATIONS/INTERESTS WHICH PRVENT
OTHER STATES FROM MANIFESTING TANGIBLE SUPPORT FOR MAURITANIA
OR RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO HER REQUESTS, HE WOULD IN FACT
FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SQUARE U.S. SUPPORT FOR THREE OF HIS FOUR
NEIGHBORS WITH REFUSAL GIRM EXPORT LICENSES, AND MIGHT WELL
REACT AS ADVERSELY IN 1977 AS HE DID IN EARLY 1976.

HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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